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# THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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## Inside

News

## Well license approved despite scorn

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

An injection well 4,500 feet below the ground that many residents, officials and environmentalists have dreaded for close to 15 years is now a reality in Romulus.

Romulus officials and residents alike expressed anger and disappointment that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) granted a permit to allow Birmingham, MI-based Environmental Disposal Systems (EDS) to operate one of the first deep injection wells on Citrin Road, near Interstate 94 and Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

The MDEQ decision effectively ends a long legal dispute between city officials, EDS and environmental groups opposed to the

plan, but doesn't do a thing to calm residents concerned about potential leaks of hazardous waste, said Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert.

"Thousands of Romulus citizens, citizens from neighboring communities like Taylor and experts from all over Southeast Michigan have been opposing this well for 14 years," he said.

"The citizens of Romulus have spent a great deal of time and money in the legal battle against this well. We are very disappointed to hear this news and wish that the MDEQ had chosen instead to stop this well in its tracks," Lambert added.

Located on a 15-acre parcel of land near Inkster Road and Interstate 94, the well will treat up to 400,000 gallons of liquid waste per day, said Austin Marshall, the

vice president of EDS. The facility is also licensed to store 11,000 gallons of waste from containers, 93,000 gallons in tanker vehicles and another 237,000 in tanks, he said.

Treatment of the waste at the Citrin Road facility will take place at an above-ground facility, and once it's treated, it will be injected underground into rock, as it is at the EDS Chesterfield Township facility.

The waste will come from the United States and eventually Canada in trucks, Marshall said.

Marshall said deep well technology is the safest way to dispose of unwanted toxic chemicals, and that the facility can be an asset to the City of Romulus and surrounding municipalities.

"After the litigation started sev-

eral years ago, we decided a better way to handle this was to go to residents and offer some things to them," he said. "So, we're doing a scholarship program and some other things that is part of our application and agreement with the MDEQ."

But Councilman William Wadsworth, who voted against looking at the proposal for a well in 1990, said the well would wreak havoc on the health and safety of residents, and hurt property values.

"I think the biggest concern is about health," he said. "I'm most worried about a spill or something like that. The bottom line is that we just don't know how this will affect the lives of the people who

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## Early support sealed well installation

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

The prospect an injection well in Romulus has been an ominous force in the city for 15 years, and the subject of a long, drawn-out legal battle.

The city might have been able to prevent the deep well from coming to the city in 1990, when Environmental Disposal Systems (EDS) initially petitioned the city council to open a facility on Warman Road.

A 4-3 vote of sitting council members in favor of exploring the idea of a well in the city opened the doors for the current situation, which has left residents and officials angry and exhausted after the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) granted EDS a license to treat and store hazardous waste at a facility on Interstate 94.

"I'm very disappointed about this and I voted against it in 1990, and I still think it's a bad thing today," said Councilman William Wadsworth. "I'm disappointed in Gov. (Jennifer) Granholm, and her flunkie at the MDEQ."

But Austin Marshall, the vice president of EDS, said the company enjoyed the support of council members and Beverly MacAnally, who was the mayor at time, in the early days of the

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area-wide blood drives

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## Giving back

The Romulus Goodfellows "No Child Without a Christmas" fundraiser has helped more than 170 families this Christmas. In December alone, Romulus firefighters collected about \$5,000 in toys and a \$2,000 donation from Lear Corp. and UAW Local 174. Gary's Catering gave \$500, as did AVI Food. Seniors at the Romulus Towers collected toys, food and made hats and mittens. The Church of Romulus donated 400 toys, and Leonardo's owners Joe and Vito Liparoto made their annual donation of toys. Pictured here are (left to right) Joe Liparoto, Vito Liparoto, Romulus firefighters Tim Rhoton and Lt. Scott Ladach and restaurant managers Denise Faruggia and Lori Lawson.

## Bird sculpture ruffles a few feathers

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

A 2-year-old plan to place a one-of-a-kind sculpture of 17 geese at the intersection of Merriman and Smith roads is drawing quite a bit of attention, not only to the artistic concept, but to the financing.

The sculpture, which will be added to the area where the hotel and entertainment district will be located, was commissioned by the city Tax Increment

Financing Authority (TIFA) to beautify the area.

But the price tag — \$100,000, half of which would be provided by tax dollars — has some people wondering whether tax money should fund public art in the city of 16,000 residents.

The current plan for the sculpture — which is being designed by Milford metal artist Heiner Hertling — calls for several bronze birds. About half of the cost of building the structure is being financed by grants and

donations, the other half is slated to come from the TIFA fund, said Mayor Alan Lambert.

"It's just something we're looking at right now, nothing's been written in stone," said Lambert. "I think it would be great to have something over there that it beautiful — we just put up a 'Welcome to Romulus' sign that looks great over there. We're doing so much over there to improve things, I think this is

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See EDS, page 3



# Blood drives scheduled throughout area

Meghan Chatham  
Staff Writer

The nearly bare shelves at the American Red Cross serve as a grim reminder that accidents happen regardless of the weather or holidays—but blood donations don't.

"Blood donations are down across the country, especially here," said Andrea Ward, spokesperson for the Southeastern Michigan Blood Services region of the American Red Cross. "The demand is simply outpacing the supply."

Although the American Red Cross has been able to meet most of the day-to-day requests of area hospitals so far, Ward said that they have few, if any, extra units on hand at the end of the day if hospitals experience an unexpectedly large demand for blood—which means the communities served could be in trouble if serious accidents or unexpected emergencies occur.

The Red Cross tries to maintain at least a three to five day supply of each blood type. Such a reserve supply in an O- blood type would mean that at least 300 units would be ready and waiting to be sent wherever they were

To help alleviate the blood shortage, the American Red Cross of Southeastern Michigan has organized a number of mobile blood drives throughout the area. To donate blood, a person must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in general good health. It generally takes slightly less than an hour to donate, with the majority of that time is spent doing a confidential donor history.

**Jan. 9:**  
2-8 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Canton (44500 Cherry Hill Road in Canton.)

**Jan. 12:**  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Kerr Manufacturing (28200 Wick Road in Romulus)

**Jan. 13:**  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wayne County RESA (33350 Van Born Road in Wayne)

1-7 p.m. at Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church (37775 Palmer Road in Westland)

**Jan. 18:**  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oakwood-Canton Medical Center (7330 Canton Center Road in Canton)

**Jan. 21:**  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Oak Pointe Church (4227 West Seven Mile Road in Northville)

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints (7575 North Hix Road in Westland)

Donations can also be made at the Livonia Blood Donor Center, which is located at 36650 Five Mile Road. It is generally open from 1-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are available by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

needed in the event of an emergency. Considered the 'universal donor' blood type, O- blood is a hospital staple because everyone can accept it.

Supplies of O- blood, as well as B- and A- blood, can now be measured in hours rather than days—and the situation is expected to become worse. The Red Cross needs to take in 900 units of blood each day to meet the basic

needs of area hospitals, so whenever they are forced to take a day off because of a holiday or major snowfall, the damage lasts for days, Ward said. In fact, they are still trying to catch up on backorders of the most needed blood types, she said, because shortfall after Christmas meant that a few hospitals hadn't received as much blood as they want to have on hand.

"There really is no reserve," she said.

January, which is National Volunteer Blood Donor Month, is always a rough season for the Red Cross. Only about 5 percent of eligible donors actually volunteer and in January, those numbers go down even further as individuals go on vacation, become ill and ineligible, or simply decide not to go out in the

cold to get to the donation site. Plus, when colleges, high schools, and factories take time off, the Red Cross loses access to some of their strongest supporters.

When a snowstorm recently shut down area schools, Ward said that five mobile blood drives had to be cancelled—drives that had been expected to provide 1/3 of the Red Cross' daily supply.

Although the blood supply is currently fairly stable, she said that it takes very little to throw the system out of whack. For instance, she said that during bad weather when the number of traffic accidents go up, there is also an increase in blood use.

"We can transport blood to where it is needed from other chapters, but only if it is there to be transported in the first place," said Ward. She added that the closest chapter for them to borrow from is located in Lansing—and they have few units to spare.

"It takes 24-72 hours to process a unit of blood, and one to three days can be too long to wait in an emergency," she said.

For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate blood, contact the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE. Or, visit [www.semredcross.org](http://www.semredcross.org).

## Historical 2006 calendars are now on sale at Belleville Area Museum

The Belleville Area Historical Society 2006 Calendars are now on sale at the museum.

The 2006 calendar contains a

brief history of the community and many vintage photos of its earliest basic institutions and events, such as the 1953 fire that

destroyed the high school, the French Landing Bridge and Victory Park.

The cost is \$6 and can be pur-

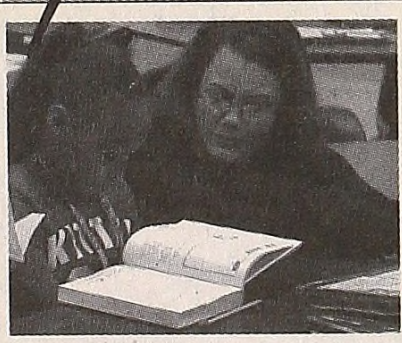
chased at the museum during regular business hours: Tuesday through Saturday, noon-4 p.m.

Calendars will also be avail-

able at several area businesses and can be purchased by mail.

For more information, contact the museum at 734-697-1944.

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# Romulus a temporary home to Inkster fire victims

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

A fire that ripped through the Canterbury Woods Apartment complex on Tobin Street near Beech Daly and Cherry Hill roads displaced about 60 people in the early morning hours of New Years Day.

Inkster Fire Chief Mike Moore said the department received a call at about 7 p.m., and nearly 20 minutes later, the building was a complete loss.

"We had a situation where we had life safety issue; people were jumping out of the windows, and we had to take care of them first," he said. In all, about six people were rescued by firefighters and police officers on the scene.

Though the fire completely engulfed one building, it was spreading to adjacent units, but

firefighters were able to stop it. "Our focus then shifted to saving the building that was left," Moore said. "We poured water on it to minimize the damage, but those people who lived in there were displaced as well."

Moore said Inkster responded with four firefighters, and immediately called for mutual aid once firefighters assessed the size of the fire. Garden City, Dearborn Heights and Westland firefighters responded to help quell the blaze.

Three residents were taken to the hospital and treated for a variety of injuries, including smoke inhalation. One man who sustained more serious injuries from jumping out of window was taken to University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor for more extensive treatment. The status of these patients is unclear.

Canterbury Woods is one of the oldest apartment buildings in the city. It was constructed more than 30 years ago, and comprises about 461 units on three floors. The individual buildings do not have sprinkler systems that activate once a fire is detected, but it was not part of the building code when the complex was built, Moore said.

Jill Jackson, the vice president of Group Five Management Co., which own Canterbury Woods, said that there have been small apartment fires in the past, but never anything that caused this much property damage. She also said he company has done it's best to make sure the residents were taken care of after they escaped the building.

"We didn't want them to be in a bad situation, so I was there with the owner (of the complex)

after it happened, and we bought coffee, donuts, everything to make sure they were OK," she said. "We also immediately started work on vacant apartments so they can move, and five families have moved so far."

Jackson said that all of the residents in the 12-unit building where the fire began lost everything they owned, and that other in the adjacent building that was saved incurred substantial losses. The complex does not require renter's insurance so many people will have to start over.

"Renter's insurance is not required, but its something we highly recommend having," she said.

The Salvation Army and the Red Cross stepped in and provided necessities such as food vouchers, clothing and toiletries to help the displaced residents

get back on their feet. Jackson also said the residents are staying at the Crowne Plaza in Romulus while arrangements are made for the families to move into units at Canterbury Place, or into another apartment community.

An investigation into the fire is still ongoing and will likely take several weeks to conclude, Moore said, but foul play is not suspected at this stage.

Group Five Management representatives said both buildings will be torn down and rebuilt, and that they plan to come before city officials to get the necessary approvals shortly.

Jackson said she's happy no life was lost in the blaze.

"There were some bad injuries, but everyone walked away from this, which is the most important thing of all," she said.



## Taking Heat

Romulus Police Cpl. Dwayne DeCaires, center, was named "Investigator of the Year" by the HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) program last week. DeCaires received the honor from Mayor Alan R. Lambert, at left, and Terri Miller, right, director of the H.E.A.T. program, on Dec. 20. After DeCaires apprehended \$100,000 in stolen automobiles, Lambert said, "We are lucky that we have a police force staffed with Dwayne DeCaires and so many other hardworking men and women."

## Birds - Financing could change due to business activity

FROM PAGE 1

something we can do with grant dollars and TIFA dollars. I don't think we could do this with general funds, though."

The idea of placing public art at the place where a great deal of business activity will take place is to lure potential companies into an area that is aesthetically pleasing, especially since the city hasn't faced the budget deficits other cities have endured, Lambert said.

But the question of whether tax dollars can be used for public art is one that elicits several responses.

"I ultimately think it depends on whom you talk to," Lambert said. "I personally feel that TIFA funds were intended for projects like this that will improve the area. We're just talking about this now - the financing could look different, and we don't know if it will happen at all."

TIFA funds are tax dollars captured from a pre-determined district that are dedicated to projects only in that area. The dollars are then used to revitalize the specific area. Michigan enacted a law about 10 years ago

*I don't think anything like this has come before the council, but I'm going to ask about it.*

**Councilman William Wadsworth**

that allowed municipalities to establish TIFA zones that are run by boards to manage the funds and steer projects much like a planning commission.

TIFA boards are not required

to seek city council approval for many of their expenses. When questioned about the sculpture Tuesday, members of the Romulus City Council said they have not voted on such a plan, and that they are unfamiliar with the project.

"I don't think anything like this has come before the council, but I'm going to ask about it," said Councilman William Wadsworth.

Councilman William Crova also said he knew nothing specific about the plan.

"I would feel uncomfortable commenting about this until I learn more," he said.

Lambert, who sits on the TIFA board, said public art has a place in the city, and that there's rhyme and reason for the sculpture to sit on the Merriman Road site.

"We've torn down a lot of abandoned structures, and it looks better over there than it has in a long time," he said.

## Well - Locals disappointed by outcome

FROM PAGE 1

live here. And at this point were just holding out hope that property values won't go down."

The underground portion of the plant is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which granted all necessary approvals to EDS seven years ago, Marshall said. But MDEQ delays and lawsuits filed by the city delayed the opening of the facility.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which regulates the underground portion of the plant, granted approval for the wells in 1998, but a series of roadblocks - mainly litigation brought by the City of Romulus - delayed the opening. The MDEQ will be responsible for monitoring the site to make sure all state environmental standards are met.

Director of the MDEQ Steve Chester said in a statement that there was no legal way to stop the facility from operating, despite the opposition from area resi-

dents.

"Because of state and federal law and actions by previous administrations, the DEQ must issue an operating license," he said.

Councilman William Crova said many people in the community took the news that the facility will be able to operate hard. But he said whether or not the facility will hurt property values in the future remains to be seen.

"I can't answer that, because we have so much going on," he said. "We rallied against this as a community, but I don't think anyone really knows what the effect is going to be down the line."

Lambert said the fact that the MDEQ board once recommended the EDS application be denied hits even harder.

"It is a shame that the MDEQ did not follow the recommendations of its own sitting review board which recommended against the issuance of the permit," he said.

## EDS - 4-3 vote opened door to well

FROM PAGE 1

project.

"I remember we had been talking with the mayor, and talking with some of the council people," he said. "If we did not have their support at that time, we would not be here."

The city approved the possibility of looking into the facility by a vote of council members on Dec. 10, 1990. Councilmen Jimmie Raspberry, Noah Bergeron, Ellis Pennington and Fred Block voted for the project, and the late Councilman Russ Lambert, Wadsworth and Mayor Pro-Tem Randolph Gear voted against it. But on Aug. 23, 1991, council members voted to rescind that approval.

Both parties later went to court about the parcel of land on Warman Road to determine if the city contention that the land was improperly zoned was correct, and the "hat case.

But when EDS found a parcel off Interstate 94 near Detroit Metropolitan Airport - and it was zoned properly - the city could do little to stop the project from moving forward.

More lawsuits followed. MacAnally, Gear, Wadsworth, Lambert and then Department of Public Service Director David Paul were sued personally. Both sides have spent several thousands - if not millions - in legal expenses since the conflict began.

Still, Wadsworth said it's difficult to look back on the situation and say the city could have done something differently, and declines to blame MacAnally for engaging in talks with EDS.

"It was her job to talk to anybody that wants to come into the city, and that's what she had to do," he said. "They were treated like any other business that wanted to come here, but we never actually gave them permission to do anything."



# OPINION

## 2006: Solutions sought

It is a subdued day at the time of this writing. It's a Monday, the day after a New Year dawned with all the bleak regularity of any other winter's day.

The world is still sluggish today, but soon government offices will be back in action and our elected and appointed officials busy at planning their agenda for 2006.

There are plenty of weighty issues on the horizon and other subtle undercurrents that officials will have to deal with, as well.

In Belleville, for instance, there's the continuing flack over what to do with the combined dispatch network (CDN) as well as what properties should and should not be within the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Both issues revolve around the shrinking revenue in the city general fund, so they should be resolved by the time the new city council gets around to planning its annual budget.

In Canton, there's the lingering question of whether the more veteran members of the board of trustees can get along with one of their new members, Todd Caccamo. The outspoken newcomer hasn't exactly gone out of his way to endear himself to his comrades, but hopefully a year of seasoning will help smooth out this relationship. Canton will continue to be a development mecca – with Ikea on the way and a Costco proposed, too – and the board needs to concentrate on more important matters.

In Inkster, officials will grapple with a difficult budget exacerbated by declining revenues and a failed Headlee Override question last year. Residents will soon see the drastic effects of the choices city officials will have to make to ensure basic city services can continue. It's not going to be a pretty year, by any means.

Northville will face the sad task of replacing Gary Word, the long-serving city manager. Word was helpful, if not instrumental, in cementing the strong relationship currently enjoyed by the city, the township and the school district. It's an important, almost ideal, collaboration that his successor would do well to follow up on. Officials in the township might be hard pressed to have voters renew their parkland acquisition and development millage, too, in the wake of a delayed Community Park Expansion project, and during a year when the school district is also asking for a new millage.

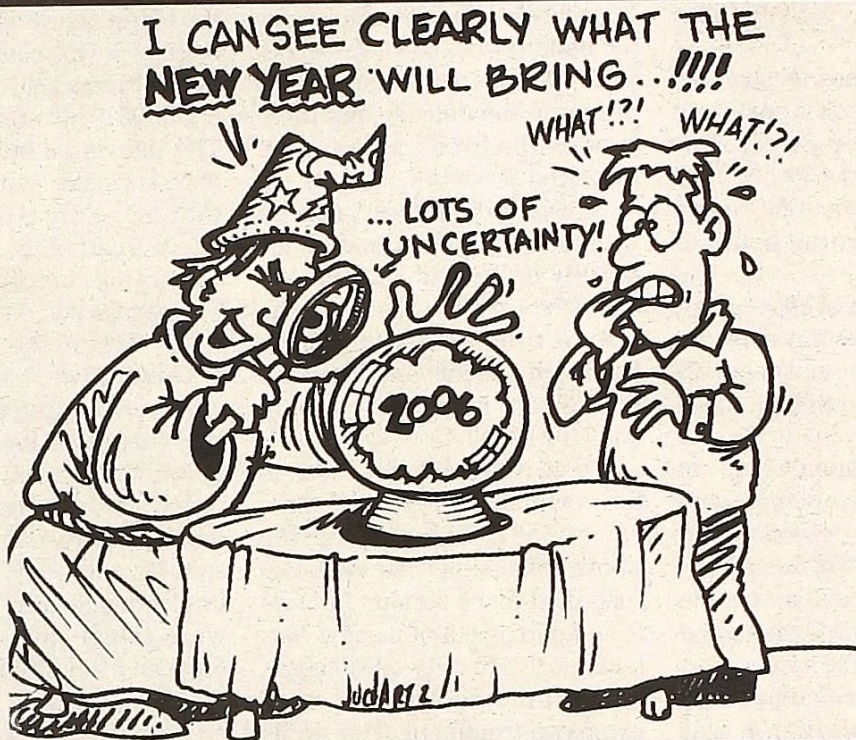
In Plymouth, officials will face many of the same issues they looked at at the start of 2005. There's continued discontent with the fire department contract that has spilled over into the dispatch department. There's the issue of the Sheldon Road Underpass, which may finally see some resolution – if not construction – soon. And there's the ongoing construction of the new township hall and question of what should be done with the old land.

The biggest question may be, though, how these two municipalities will work together to solve their cross-boundary problems. While city administrators were smart to investigate other options with their fire and dispatch departments, the most logical choice is for them to remain together, if the finances can be worked out. Finances remain the key issue, too. The city simply doesn't have any additional funding to work with. It's our hope that the leaders in those two communities can work together to solve their differences for the betterment of the entire community.

Romulus was dealt a serious blow recently when Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc (EDS) was finally granted a license to operate a toxic waste injection well in the community. It comes just at a time when serious development was coming to town – several residential projects, new retail projects and a proposed racetrack and casino. They'll need to balance those two things and find a way to keep their development boom coming.

The City of Wayne faces some of these challenges, too. In a built up community with little developable land, funding will continually be something to watch. City officials are justifiably nervous about the

See 2006, page 5



## Things overheard at death's door

A funny thing happened to me on the way to the emergency room on Saturday.

It was about 1 p.m., and all of the walk-in clinics in the area had closed due to the New Years Eve holiday. A sweet-smiling lady at one of them even apologized for letting me in – she said she had forgotten to lock the door. The pathetic, plaintive look on my face didn't change her mind, either.

So I glumly headed to Oakwood Annapolis Hospital, confident that that's where I would spend the rest of my day, hunched over in a long line of the similarly discarded walking wounded.

My head throbbed with a sinus infection so severe that I wouldn't have been surprised if it had popped like an overextended water balloon. My body ached, scalp to toes.

"Is this where I check in?" I asked the first lady I saw. I tried to smile, to assess my surroundings. There weren't too many people in the waiting room, so maybe I had a chance of salvaging some of my afternoon.

"Yes," she said. "What brings you in here today?"

I didn't know how to answer at first. My thoughts were like turtles trudging through my head.

"Uh, put me down for a little of everything," I answered.

She scowled at that, so I gave her a slightly more detailed list of my symptoms. Even listing them exhausted me.

"Have you been here before?" she wanted to know.

I thought, but couldn't quite recall. All emergency rooms looked pretty much the same, after all,

full of hanging green sheets, stark white hallways, soft groans coming from somewhere, clean people with polite smiles that walked quickly with squeaking shoes. I knew I had been in a few, but couldn't nail down which ones they were.

"Uh, I don't think so," I finally answered.

She made a few quick checks, asked me to fill out some forms. I did and another nurse asked me more questions, starting with: where do you work?

"The Journal Newspapers," I answered.

"Oh yeah," the other nurse said. "Up on Michigan Avenue, right. The Wayne paper?"

"That's one of them," I nodded. I tried to summon some humor. It's difficult sometimes to be the public face of an entity like that, when all you really want is to get some medication and go collapse on the couch with a sheet over your head. "Why, do you have a story idea for me?"

"Just put something in it," came the quick reply. "Your paper stinks!"

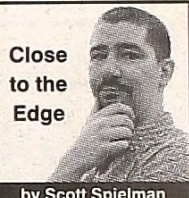
"Be nice," her co-worker hissed.

"I'm sorry to be rude," the other nurse answered, "but it's true. No one around here would pay anything for it. There's nothing in it. I liked it better the old way."

Later, after a sympathetic doctor told me I would, in fact, live and prescribed me enough drugs to keep Timothy Leary happy, she came back to apologize.

"I'm sorry I was rude," she said. "It's not my

See Overheard, page 5



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

## Looking at Plymouth in 2006

Next year could be a very interesting one throughout the Plymouth community.

The extremely popular 24th annual Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular will have to compete with downtown Detroit's Winter Blast and pre-Super Bowl festivities.

The Plymouth Masonic Temple, an 80-year-old Plymouth Landmark, will be transformed into homes, a restaurant and parking structure.

The brand new Plymouth Township Hall will open sometime in the spring, too.

The Plymouth-Canton Community School District will ask to community to approve two bond issues totaling \$124 million.

The Plymouth Fall Festival will enter into its golden years, as the 2006 installment will mark the 51st year of the event.

The Friends of the Penn will continue their drive to breathe live into the Penn Theater.

The one constant in all of these new developments is you: the community.

You'll determine how successful the Ice Festival is while the world converges on the area for Super Bowl XL.

You'll determine how many occupants the Meridian Development condos get when the homes are built in the Masonic Temple.

You'll determine if a new township hall was/is a good use of your tax dollars.

You'll determine how many chickens the Noon Rotary Club sells, how many elephant ears are eaten, and how many ride tickets are sold during the Fall Festival.

You'll determine if the school district needs a new middle school, improvements on other schools, and a career technical center.

And you'll be the deciding factor in whether or not a downtown theater is vital to the life of a small community.

Next year, like any other, will be the year of the people. One of the many things I've learned since I started working in Plymouth is that the people make their voices heard—likes and dislikes.

I think that will continue once the New Year begins, and the entire community will be better for it.



Bank Shot

by Jason Carmel Davis

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# Not so far apart

The communities are within a 10-mile radius of each other, but there are so many differences.

Romulus is larger in area, but Inkster has more people. One thrives to some extent on the largess of Detroit Metropolitan Airport, the other lost it's biggest taxpayer five years ago, and is still looking for the next big thing.

Each community has its fortunes pinned on housing development. About 500 will be constructed in Inkster and 1,000 in Romulus during the next three years or so. Both cities are entrenched in a housing boom at a time when it looks like the housing market could cool, though all involved are remain cautiously optimistic.

Both Inkster and Romulus are enjoying a resurgence in a difficult economic climate, but as I write this today – my third anniversary of my first day at this newspaper – Romulus seems to be in a better position to capitalize on its current plans, and it's not because of the impending racetrack or casino, or the airport.

Romulus, it must be said, found a way to make diversity – and differences in opinion – work for them, and Inkster has not.

Romulus is a melting pot – this is reflected in the makeup of the city council and other govern-

mental bodies. And it's also reflected in the decision-making in the city, which helps a great deal in keeping everyone happy with the state of affairs in the city.

Inkster is also a melting pot, though sometimes the people in elected office may not realize it. More and more, white, Hispanic and Arab are calling home what is an African American majority. In terms of the citizenry, this is something that is welcome, as long as the people who move in are good neighbors.

Some elected officials seem to be behind the times. I've sensed this often not because of their personal feelings. It's more about politics. But it's damaging just the same, and residents are beginning to notice.

A school crossing guard recently called to tell me she doesn't understand why this newspaper is beat up at city council meetings, and that she doesn't understand why the city isn't putting the same effort into fixing problems.

Meanwhile, one elected official asked me why I never write anything negative about a quiet, white department head who toils way under the radar for the city. It was as if he would have liked to see this sort of thing about a veteran city employee in print. Is that really going to improve

things?

Here's what I would like to see in 2006.

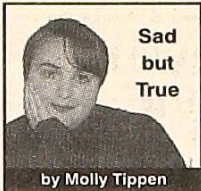
Romulus needs to be very careful regarding the shift in focus from manufacturing to what will be a gaming economy. That's because – even though they bring jobs and revenue – casinos cater to some our worst instincts. It's an economy based on shifting sands, or nothing, in a community where many people can't afford to gamble in the first place.

And Inkster officials need to catch up with residents and harness the power diversity produces when everyone has a seat at the table.

Communities like Ferndale have that mastered. I recently saw one of my childhood homes advertised for sale on the Internet.

It's a 55-year-old, 780-square foot, aluminum-sided box with a pointed roof and a detached garage located between Eight and Nine Mile Road off Woodward Avenue. It looks like many you see in Inkster. I called the Realtor a day later, and it was sold for \$225,000.

One thing that is the same: Both of these communities have something to lose, but so much to gain.



Sad but True  
by Molly Tippen

## 2006

FROM PAGE 4

struggles of the Big Three Automakers, given that Ford Motor Co. contributes more than half of the annual tax base to the general fund and the DDA. Hopefully, the final presentation from the students at Andrews University will help build on what officials have planned already and continue to bring new growth to the downtown and revitalization to the city. A large part of that proposal, though, centers on a possible train station to be located in the downtown. Officials would be wise not to put all of their eggs in that basket; it always helps to have a backup plan.

Westland shows a lot of promise of rising above the diffi-

cult economy. With an experienced council back on board and an experienced mayor in office, the city should be well equipped to handle the day-to-day issues that face municipalities across the state. We like the concept of bringing back an economic development director to bring the solid work done by Bruce Thompson and the planning department to a new level. Hopefully this person will help bring in diverse types of development, to help jump start the economy on a state-wide level. Westland is among the largest communities in the state, after all, and has the resources to be a leader in that area, too.

Whatever issues our local leaders face, they are dwarfed by larger, nationwide issues such as the war in Iraq, health care and others. Let's hope that 2006 is the year we find answers to some of those issues, too.

### Send us your letters

The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to: The Editor, The Journal Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan 48184. All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length. Letters must be signed and a phone number included only for verification of the writer's identity. Addresses and phone numbers will be kept confidential.

## Overheard

FROM PAGE 4

place to criticize...."

I tried to summon my mental faculties.

"Of course it is," I said. "I like criticism."

She scoffed, though. "You like criticism," she repeated with a laugh.

"Sure," I answered. My tongue fumbled through the words. "If you don't listen to your critics, how are you ever going to improve?"

It sounds like a placating statement, but I firmly believe it. Those that can't take criticism in

their job – especially in this line of work – don't deserve to be in it.

The truth is I'm rarely satisfied with what I do. I always want to do better. There's always some little thing I miss and I believe the little things are just as important as the big things, if not more so. Everyone follows up on the big things, the plant explosions, the murders, high-profile drug raids. It's the little things that show you actually care.

It's a testament to my condition Saturday that I didn't get the nurse's name, or else I would thank her here, personally. I extolled her to write me a letter or give me a call.

It's your paper, too, I told her.

Write me a letter, blast me for not doing my job. I can take it. I need the feedback.

That goes for anyone else, too. It's a new year, now, and everyone is looking for a fresh start. Soon our web site will have a new look. The doldrums of the holidays will be over and things will start picking up speed. I've already got ideas on what I want to do more of in the coming year, but I'd welcome more. I just need some help, sometimes, in taking the first step. You can email me at [editor@journal-group.com](mailto:editor@journal-group.com), send a letter to 35540 W. Michigan Ave., Wayne, MI 48184, or just stop me if you see me out and about.

Even if I'm near death.

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD DECEMBER 12, 2005 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Randolph Gear.  
**Present:** John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, Leroy Burcroff, William Crova, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth.  
**Excused:** Harry Crout.  
**Administrative Officials in Attendance:**  
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk  
Pamela Morrison-Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-484

2. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held December 05, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Abstain - Wadsworth.  
Motion Carried.

05-485

3A. Motion by Bragg, supported by Wadsworth to schedule a study session for PC-2004-048/049, Cluster Qualifications/ Special Land Use/Preliminary Cluster Plan approval for a Wellesley Park single-family detached site condominium project on January 9, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Romulus City Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-486

3B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to concur with the recommendations of City Planner, Cynthia Lyon, AICP, and grant Final Preliminary Plat approval to Legacy Park Subdivision for a period of two years, expiring December 12, 2007, subject to the following:

1. Review and approval of the Subdivision documents by the City Attorney prior to recording with Wayne County;
2. Copy of recorded documents submitted to City prior to Final Plat approval;
3. Performance bond to cover the estimated cost of construction improvements filed with City Treasurer prior to start of construction;
4. Compliance with the City Assessors memorandum dated November 14, 2005; and Langworthy Strader LeBlanc and Associates letter November 21, 2005;
5. City Clerk review of compliance of the items listed in Section 33-25 of the Subdivision Regulations;
6. Confirmation that the conceptual elevations are acceptable, modification if any will require updating Section 5.9 of the protection Covenants for this development; and
7. Stormwater maintenance agreement being executed and recorded with Wayne County

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-487

3C. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to concur with the recommendation of the Romulus Police Department and approve Midfield Hospitality (d/b/a/ Clarion Inn) request to transfer ownership of 2005 B-Hotel licensed business (in escrow) with dance-entertainment permit, 2 bars and 1523 rooms from RIYA Michigan, LLC. Reference #325370.

Roll call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-488

3D. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to concur with request of the Petitioner, Woolf Aircraft Products, 6401 Cogswell, and grant an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for a period of six (6) years, December 31, 2006 to December 30, 2012, pursuant to P.A. 198 of 1974, as amended and City guidelines.

Roll call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-489

4A1. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Scott Crout, former D.P.W. Employee and beloved son of Councilman Harry Crout.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-490

4A2. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of Attorney Jim Tammn to proceed with legal matter of Crown Enterprises.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes- Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to accept the Chairperson’s Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-491

5A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to concur with the administration and adopt the Revised Fee Structure for Development Reviews dated 12/7/07.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-492

5B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to concur with the administration and adopt a Resolution for escrow fees for reviews and processing of Development Application through the Planning Department.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-493

5C. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to concur with the administration and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the professional services agreement between the City and Longworthy, Strader, LeBlanc and Associates to continue to serve as the City’s Planning Consultant.

Roll Call Vote Showing: ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-494

5D. Motion by Bragg, supported by Wadsworth to introduce Budget Amendment 04/05-17:

| FUND/DEPT.<br>ACCOUNT NO. | ACCOUNT NAME         | CURRENT<br>BUDGET | AMENDMENT | AMENDED<br>BUDGET |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| General Fund              |                      |                   |           |                   |
| <u>Expenditure</u>        |                      |                   |           |                   |
| 101-3810-738.77-30        | Contractual Services | 64,200            | 23,000    | 87,200            |
| <u>Fund Balance</u>       |                      |                   |           |                   |
| 101-0000-390.00-00        | Fund Balance         | 2,924,152         | (23,000)  | 2,901,152         |

To proceed with updating the City zoning Ordinance beginning in January 2006. Balance of contract to be covered in 2006-07 budget.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-495

5E. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to introduce Budget Amendment 05/06-18:

| FUND/DEPT.<br>ACCOUNT NO. | ACCOUNT NAME     | CURRENT<br>BUDGET | AMENDMENT | AMENDED<br>BUDGET |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Cable Fund                |                  |                   |           |                   |
| <u>Expenditures</u>       |                  |                   |           |                   |
| 211-5140-751.70-20        | Regular Salaries | 78,085            | 800       | 79,625            |
| 211-5140-751.72-10        | Social Security  | 6,567             | 50        | 6,617             |
| 211-5140-751.72-20        | Medicare         | 1,536             | 12        | 1,548             |
| 211-5140-751.72-30        | Retirement       | 7,488             | 76        | 7,564             |
| 211-5140-751.72-20        | Health Insurance | 19,860            | 2,058     | 21,918            |
| 211-5140-751.72-50        | Dental Insurance | 536               | 1,261     | 1,797             |
| 211-5140-751.72-80        | Workers Comp.    | 874               | 39        | 913               |
| 211-5140-751.74-97        | Retiree Benefits | 5,084             | 52        | 5,136             |
| <u>Fund Balance</u>       |                  |                   |           |                   |
| 211-0000-390.00-00        | Fund Balance     | 223,583           | (4,348)   | 219,235           |

To allocate expenses for position of Cable Liaison and increases in current health & dental costs.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-496

5F. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to concur with the administration and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the agreement between the City and Allied Benefit systems, Inc. for the purpose of providing the employer sponsored Flexible Spending Account Plan.

Roll Call Vote Showing Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-497

5G. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to award Bid 05/06-16 Demolitions-Demolition List 05-01 to Van Assche Construction in the amount of \$15,700.00.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-498

5H. Motion by Barden, supported by Bragg to concur with the administration and grant authorization extend Bid 03/04-69 Mosquito Control with Clarke Mosquito Control Products at a cost of \$602.80 per case of 220 briquettes. This is an increase of \$16.27 per case.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-499

6A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Bragg to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendment 05/06-15 and 16 introduced at the Council meeting held December 5, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-500

11. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to authorize the City Treasurer to dis-

Continued on page 7



SPORTS

Belleville drops 2 games in overtime

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The Belleville Tigers may have gotten an early taste of how it feels to play on the big stage at Michigan State University's Breslin Center—host of the state semifinal and final basketball tournaments.

However, the Tigers didn't walk away with what they hoped for at the end of March—a win.

Star senior forward Leon Freeman scored 39 points, but Belleville couldn't pull out the victory in overtime against East Grand Rapids last Thursday as a part of the Meijer Holiday Hoops Invitational.

Grand Rapids' Justin Anyijon put the game away, 73-71, at the buzzer in overtime. Belleville had possession with about eight seconds left on the clock when Grand Rapids' Calvin Grady forced a turnover and made a pass to Anyijon for the victory.

East Grand Rapids led until the fourth quarter when Belleville out scored them 15-9 to knot the game at 61. Belleville center Michael Gibson came up huge in the final seconds of regulation when he blocked a shot at the buzzer to keep the game even.

Grand Rapids led, 19-17, after one and took a 34-30 lead at the half. They had a six-point lead, 52-46, after three quarters but got things going in the fourth to send the game into an extra period.

"They're a good ball club," said Belleville Coach Mike Krogel about East Grand Rapids. "We had our opportunities, we just didn't take advantage of them."

Krogel said free throws were key in Grand Rapids' victory. Belleville sent them to the line for 19 freebies. They made 12 of them. Belleville was only 3-for-11 from the charity stripe.

Along with his team-leading 39 points, Freeman secured a team-leading 14 rebounds for a double-double. He is aver-

aging almost 35 points per contest. Senior guard Carlos Clark had eight points and seven assists and senior forward Mike Donaldson added eight buckets and nabbed six rebounds. Gibson finished with seven points, six rebounds and four blocked shots.

Belleville 75, Lansing Sexton 79 (OT)

Free throws were the demise of the Tigers last Tuesday when they tipped off against Lansing Sexton at Ypsilanti High School for the Huron Holiday Varsity Tournament.

Sexton won the overtime bout, 79-75.

The Big Reds were allowed 55 free throws, making 32 of them, while the Tigers were 19-for-29.

"We lost the game by four but we lost by 13 from the line," Krogel said. "We also had 21 turnovers in the game and they converted probably 20 points off of them. A lot of it was self-inflicted. Bad decisions were the biggest part."

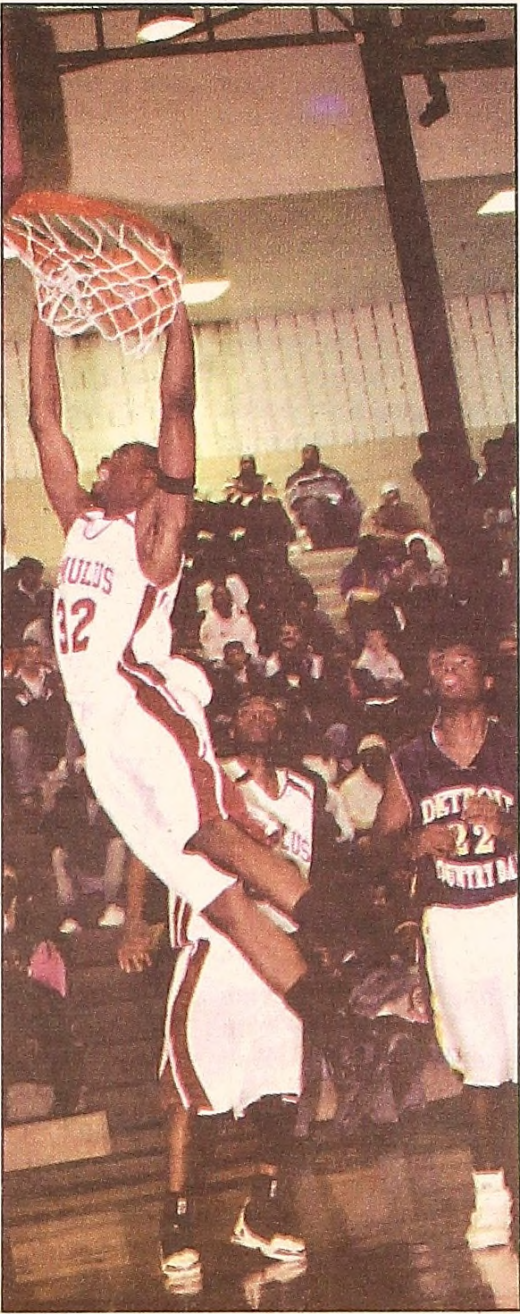
Belleville kept pace in the first quarter with a 10-10 finish. Sexton moved ahead with a one-point lead, 25-24, before the intermission. Each team scored 20 in the third so Sexton maintained the lead, 45-44, but Belleville put together a better fourth, outscoring the Big Reds, 24-23, to send the game into overtime.

Belleville couldn't overcome the shortage in points from the line and Sexton outscored them, 11-7, in the extra inning.

Freeman led all scorers with 44; he earned a double-double with 15 rebounds. Junior guard Darius Hardrick added 11.

The Tigers host John Glenn at 7 p.m. tomorrow and Ann Arbor at 7 p.m. next Monday before they start league play with a home contest against Monroe at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 13.

"We're not going to take any game for granted," Krogel said. "We hope that the basketball gods look upon us. Right now they're not and we have to turn that around."



Romulus junior center Devin Searcy slams a dunk in the Eagles' 81-69 loss to Birmingham Detroit Country Day at the Romulus Winners Circle Classic Challenge of Champions last Friday.

Romulus falls to Country Day, 81-69

Undefeated Birmingham Detroit Country Day proved they were one of the best teams in the state when they defeated another top-ranked team, Romulus, last Friday for the final bout of 2005.

Country Day led all four quarters, toppling Romulus, 81-69, on the Eagles' home court at the Romulus Winners Circle Classic Challenge of Champions.

The audience had a chance to see some of the best players in the state take to the hardwood. Country Day superstars Alex Legion and Omar Smith proved they were Division 1 school worthy. Legion, a junior, posted 23 points and Smith—in his final year—knocked down 19 in the win.

On Romulus' side of the gym, the likes of senior Tommie Clark, junior Devin Searcy and sophomore point guard Dominique Buckley proved they shouldn't be overlooked.

Buckley and Clark scored 20 points each for the Eagles while Searcy used his 6-foot-9 frame to capitalize on a couple of dunks in the fourth quarter.

Romulus trailed, 26-17, at the end of the opening quarter and Country Day headed to the locker room with a 46-36 advantage.

Country Day never let up in the second half, either. They extended their lead by 14 in the third, 68-54, and held Romulus off for the victory.

Romulus heads to Highland Park for their final non-league game at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 10 and start their league play when they host river rouge at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 13.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan 48111 in the matter of application number VBT-05-043 BZA.

The application requests action by the BZA concerning an aggregate of parcels of land approximately 376.69 acres in area, all located within Section 4 of Van Buren Township, generally bounded on the south by and abutting the Van Born Road public right of way, bounded on the east by and abutting the Beck Road public right of way, bounded on the north by and abutting the Ecorse Road public right of way, and bounded on the west by and abutting the Belleville Road public road right of way, also known as the former General Motors Property. This application does not include the parcel known as 6820 Belleville Road, V-125-83-016-0007-000. The complete list of the parcel numbers in the application can be viewed at the Van Buren Township Department of Development.

The applicant is requesting the following:  
**A ZONING ORDINANCE VARIANCE FROM THE LAND USES REGULATED BY ORDINANCE 02-06-92, AS AMENDED; SECTION 15.02 PERMITTED USES IN THE M-1 ZONING DISTRICT; SECTION 15.03 PERMITTED USES AFTER SPECIAL APPROVAL IN THE M-1 ZONING DISTRICT; SECTION 16.02 PERMITTED USES IN THE M-2 ZONING DISTRICT; SECTION 16.03 PERMITTED USES AFTER SPECIAL APPROVAL.**

The applicant seeks relief pursuant to Sections 20.829 and 20.833 of the Zoning Ordinance; however a preliminary issue is whether the BZA has jurisdiction to consider the application pursuant to Sections 20.830 and 20.831 of the Zoning Ordinance

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the above reference Public Hearing.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: December 29, 2005  
Publish: December 29, 2005  
January 5, 2006

Continued from page 6

burse funds of Warrant 05-23 in the grand total amount of Seven Hundred Fifty Six Thousand, Six Hundred Forty Five Dollars and Thirty Nine Cents (\$756,645.39).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Abstain - Crova.  
Motion Carried.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk  
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held December 12, 2005.

Linda R. Choate, Clerk  
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: January 5, 2006



## SPORTS

## Windsor Spitfires spoil Plymouth Whalers' New Year

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

It's no secret that when the Plymouth Whalers and the Windsor Spitfires compete, sparks are sure to fly.

When the two teams faced off not once but twice in a five-day period last week, it was more like lightning hitting a transformer than just mere sparks. The teams amassed 15 combined goals in the two contests with each team earning a mark in the 'W' column.

It wasn't a happy start to the New Year for the Whalers as the Spitfires torched them, 8-1, on Sunday afternoon at Windsor Arena.

The Spitfires had eight different goal scorers on the night. They took a 3-0 lead in the first period with goals from Mitch Maunu, Paul McFarland and Brad Snetsinger, who scored off of a penalty shot.

Cal O'Reilly made it a 4-1 game in the second period. And Ryan Garlock, Peter Aston, Chris Purves and Kevin Hudes each tallied single scores in the third period.

Windsor outshot Plymouth, 38-30, and won the special-teams game, going 4-for-8 on the power play and 4-for-5 when killing Plymouth power plays. Windsor goalie Anthony Guadagnolo was solid between the pipes, stopping 29 of 30 Plymouth shots.

Dearborn native John Vigilante scored Plymouth's only goal on a power play at 5:12 of the second period. Mike Letizia and Justin Peters earned the assists on the play. The goal gives Vigilante 84 in his Plymouth career (11th on the team's all-time list) and 224 career points (9th on the all-time list)—one point ahead of Stephen Weiss, now with the National Hockey League's Florida Panthers.

Peters struggled for the first time since coming to Plymouth in early December, letting in the first six goals. Rookie goalie Jeremy Smith of Brownstown came in for relief, stopping 4 of 6 shots.

It was quite the opposite story when the two teams met the prior Wednesday after noon.

Peters stopped 37 of 38 of the Windsor Spitfires' shots to lead Plymouth to a 5-1 home victory.

Plymouth remains in sole possession of first place in the West Division with a 19-13-1-3 record.

This time against Windsor, five different Plymouth players scored goal in the victory—Evan Brophey, Dan Collins, Zack Shepley, Jared Boll and Tom Sestito. Letizia and Wes Cunningham each added two assists in the contest.

Special teams were key in the win, too. Plymouth went 3-for-5 while on the power play. The Whalers also killed off four

Windsor power-play attempts.

After Brophey and Windsor's O'Reilly traded first period goals, the Whalers broke the game open with three unanswered power play goals in the second period. Collins scored the eventual game-winner at 1:44 of the second period.

Shepley gave the Whalers a 3-1 lead when he accepted a pass from Derek Merlini and beat Guadagnolo at about the 6:12 mark. Boll completed the scor-

ing in the frame at 19:23.

Sestito finished the scoring at 2:23 of the third period when he tipped Cunningham's pass by Guadagnolo.

Plymouth starts a three-game road trip through Northern Ontario tonight when they play in Barrie, Sudbury on Friday and Sault Ste. Marie on Saturday. Plymouth's next home game is Wednesday, January 11 at 7:30 pm against Saginaw.

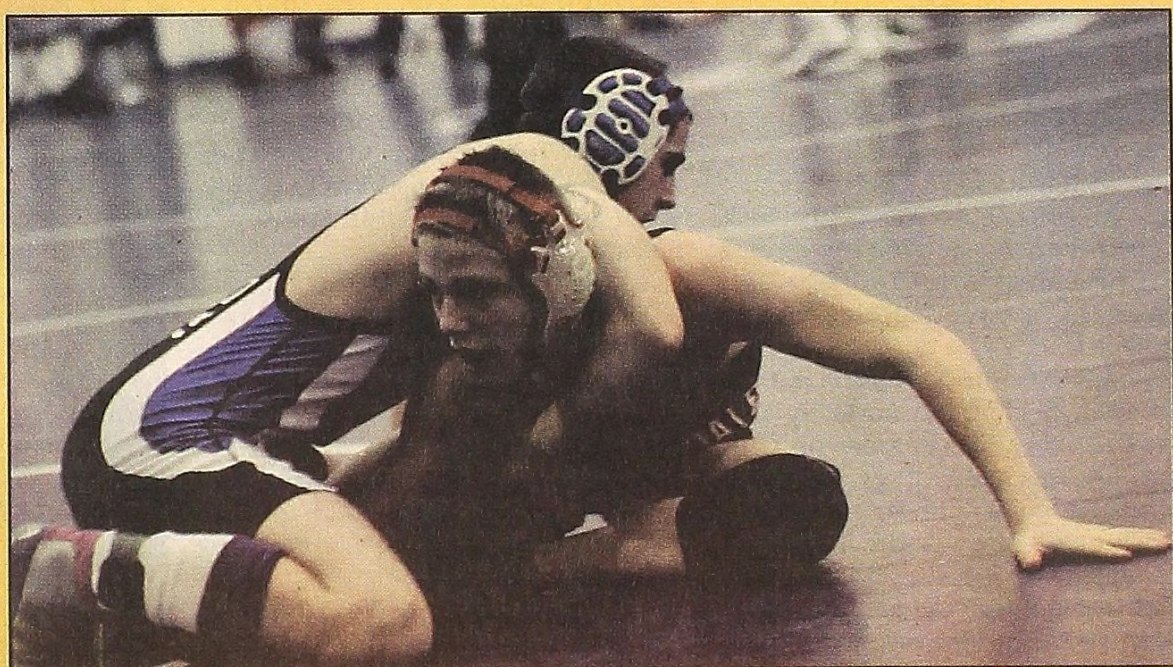
Erie 4, Plymouth 3

The Erie Otters scored three unanswered goals in the third period to overcome a 3-1 deficit and defeat Plymouth, 4-3, Friday night at the Compuware Sports Arena.

Adam Berti, Anthony Peluso and Jordan Nolan each scored a goal in the third period to give Erie the victory.

Chris Greene scored Erie's first goal, in the second period.

Sestito, Letizia and Boll scored for Plymouth.



### Wrestle mania

Salem hosted their annual post-Christmas varsity wrestling tournament last Thursday. The all-day event started at 9 a.m. in the Salem gym with teams from throughout Michigan including Belleville, Westland John Glenn, Monroe, Melvindale and Owosso. Salem hosts Walled Lake Central at 6:30 p.m. today.

## PASSENGER

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01. Obituaries

02. In Memoriam

03. Cards of Thanks

04. Monuments  
& Cemetery Plots

05. Announcements

06. Death Notices

07. Attorneys

08. Entertainment

09. Lost & Found

10. Coming Events

30. Help Wanted
31. Help Wanted Sales

32. Help Wanted Drivers

33. Child Care

34. Specialized Services

35. Situations Wanted

40. Business Opportunity

42. Pawn Shops

43. Money to Loan

44. Music/Art Lessons

45. Private Tutoring

46. Private Instruction

47. Riding/Horses/Stables
50. Pets & Supplies

54. Rummage Sales

55. Estate Sales

56. Flea Markets

57. Antiques

58. Garage and Yard Sales

59. Auctions

60. Misc. Sales

61. Misc. Items

62. Building Supplies

63. Business and  
Office Equipment
64. Lawn & Garden Supplies

65. Tree Service

66. Landscape / Nurseries

67. Garden Plant / Supplies

68. Garden / Produce

70. Masonry / Brickwork

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77. Recreation Vehicles
78. Hunting / Fishing

82. Wanted to Buy

87. Room for Rent

88. Duplexes for Rent

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92. Business Places for Rent

93. Banquet Halls

94. Farm Land for Rent

95. Garages for Rent

96. Houses for Rent

97. Cottages for Rent
98. Mobile Homes for Rent

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100. Will Share

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104. Farms & Acreage for Sale

105. Mobile Homes for Sale

106. Houses for Sale

107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale

108. Lake and Resort

109. Income Property
110. Lots for Sale

111. Out of State Property

112. Commercial Lease

113. Real Estate Wanted

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119. Auto Repairs

120. Motorcycles

121. Autos Wanted

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**55. Estate Sales**

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4934 Fletcher, Wayne  
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January 7 & 8  
9:00 - 5:00  
  
Tools, appliances,  
household items,  
clothing and more.

**59. Auctions**

Notice is hereby given  
that on 1/25/06 at 1:00PM  
the following will be sold  
by competitive bidding at:

Stor-N-Lock  
7840 N. Wayne Rd.  
Westland, MI  
  
Unit #E-21  
Rodney H. Geter  
1 TV  
3 Office Equipment  
9 Household Furnishing  
30 Misc. Boxes/bags  
10 Other Misc. Items

PUBLIC AUTO AUCTION

The following vehicles  
have been deemed aban-  
doned and will be sold at  
public auction, January 7,  
2006 at 10:00 AM at:

J & M TOWING  
8964 Inkster Rd.  
Romulus, MI 48174  
(734) 946-4101

1998 International Eagle  
2HSFHA5TWC054429

2001 Benson Trailer  
5DMRT8THX1B000262

Please note: The bidding  
will start at the towing and  
storage charges.

CITY OF WESTLAND  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC  
AUCTION

On JANUARY 10, 2006 the  
Westland Police  
Department will conduct  
public auctions of  
impounded abandoned  
vehicles. The first auction  
will begin promptly at  
10:00am at Westland  
Service Towing, 300 S.  
Newburgh, Westland, MI,  
County of Wayne, where  
the following vehicles will  
be offered for sale to the  
highest bidder:

1991 Buick Park Ave.  
4 Dr Burgundy  
1G4CW53L2M1627096

1996 Pontiac Sunfire  
2 Dr White  
1G2JB12427562213

1998 Ford Taurus  
4 Dr Black  
1FAPP52S8WG159470

1990 Buick Skylark  
4 Dr Blue  
1G4NV54U9LM048008

1995 Ford Aspire  
4 Dr White  
KNJLT06H1S6101871

1992 Mercury Sable  
4 Dr Burgundy  
1MECM5048NG614387

1988 Ford Escort  
2 Dr Blue  
1FAPP9195JW303727

The second auction will  
begin promptly at 11:00am  
at Westland Car Care,  
6375 Hix Rd., Westland,  
MI, County of Wayne,  
where the following  
vehicles will be offered for  
sale to the highest bidder:

1980 Olds Delta 88  
4 Dr Yellow  
3Y69NAM240436

1995 Ford Taurus  
4 Dr White  
1FALP52U6SG217980

1985 AMC Eagle  
StWgn Orange  
2CCCK3878FB704372

1993 Chevy Lumina  
4 Dr Red  
2G1WL54T0P1148692

1994 Ford Econoline  
Van White  
1FTEE14N8RHB67501

1989 Ford F-150  
Pk Trk Blue  
1FTEF15Y9KLB01323

2003 Kia Rio  
4 Dr Silver  
KNADC125936209369

1986 Dodge  
2 Dr Gold  
1B3BD31D3GG145178

1996 Ford Escort  
2 Dr White  
1FASP11J6TW172803

All vehicles are sold in "as  
is" condition. Bidding on  
all vehicles will start at the  
amount due for towing and  
storage. Vehicles may be  
deleted from this list at any  
time prior to the start of the  
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# THE SCENE

## Munich

### Film explores cycle of violence, revenge

*Munich* is allegedly "based on a true story," and, for the most part, sticks to the facts.

Directed by Steven Spielberg, *Munich* tells the story of the Israeli response to the kidnapping and murder of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Summer Olympics.

The athletes were kidnapped on Sept. 5, 1972, from their apartment in the Olympic Village by five members of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), a terrorist group that once got as much ink as Al Qaeda does now.

It goes without saying that the incident – in which the athletes and a coach were taken hostage, and then killed in a hail of gunfire during a botched rescue attempt – shocked the world.

But the focus of *Munich* is on the immediate operation that mobilized to avenge the lost athletes. The premise of the movie is that hate spurs more hate; that

it's an endless chain to which people keep adding links.

Eric Bana (*The Hulk*, *Troy*) stars as Avner, the reluctant leader of a group of agents assembled by the Israeli government to kill the men responsible for the kidnappings. There are 11 of those, too.

The movie follows Avner through this process; along with his cohorts, played by Daniel Craig, Ciarin Hinds, and Geoffrey Rush. It also follows his ambivalence – he was hired to kill men he has never met – as the operation plays out. This – among other things – has drawn some criticism from some Jewish groups.

The scenes are unnerving. Intermingled with scenes of the terrorists' deaths are depictions of the kidnapping and the rescue attempt. The effect is riveting – and it's the first time many viewers will get a visual representation of what happened, because only a few people witnessed it.



Reviewed By  
Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

Other than this film, there are a few grainy pictures of kidnapers in ski masks with semi-automatic weapons. We don't even have competition footage from the 1972 Olympics of the athletes because official competition had not yet started at the time of the deaths.

One of the criticisms of the picture is that it shows Avner questioning his part of the opera-

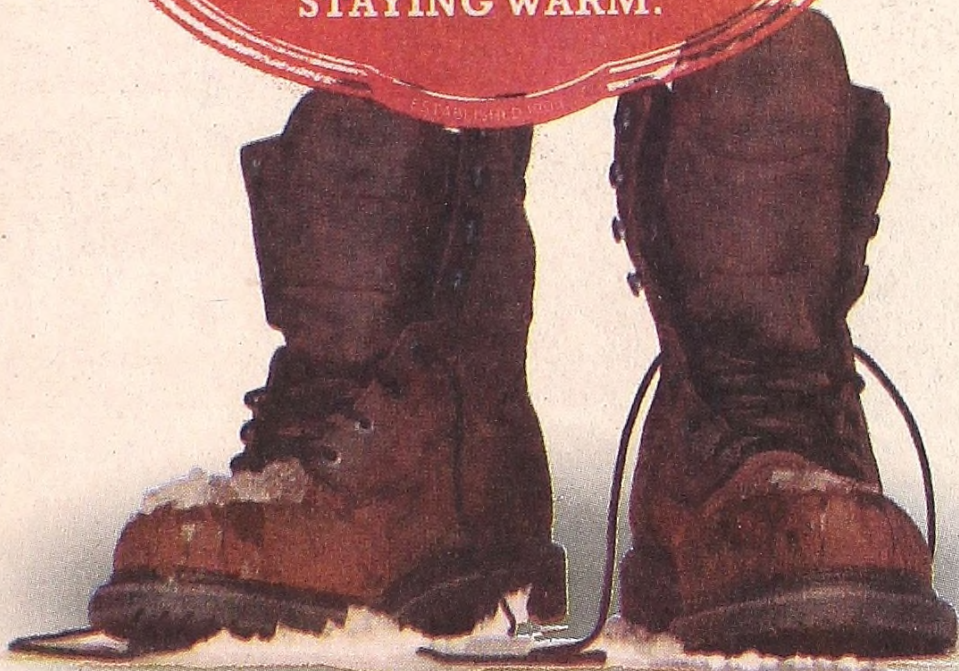
tion. But it's not too hard to believe he would have felt these emotions, given the circumstance and the weight of what he is asked to do. Another criticism is that it does not hold German authorities – who devised the rescue operation – accountable for their actions. Most of the 11 athletes died as the terrorists, all of whom were shot to death, were transporting them. But if not for

the PLO and their actions, the deaths would not have happened, and no reasonable person can help but realize the cost of terrorism as they watch this film.

*Munich* does treat the story with the sensitivity it requires. It also leaves the viewer wondering about the Middle East; it's hard not to watch this and not think of the current tensions.

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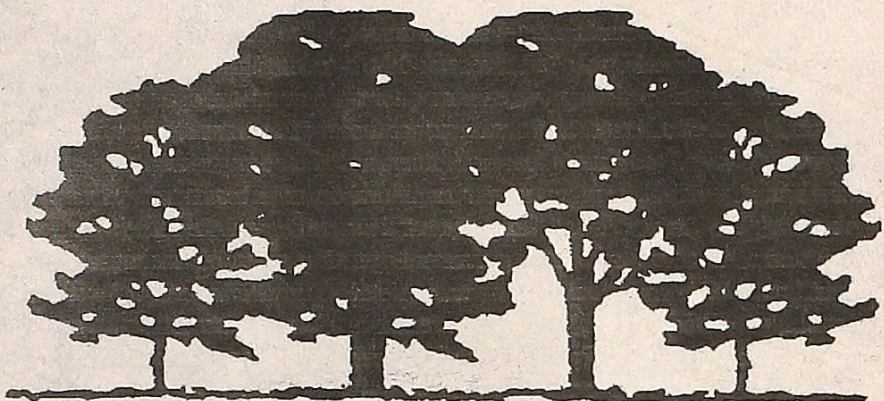
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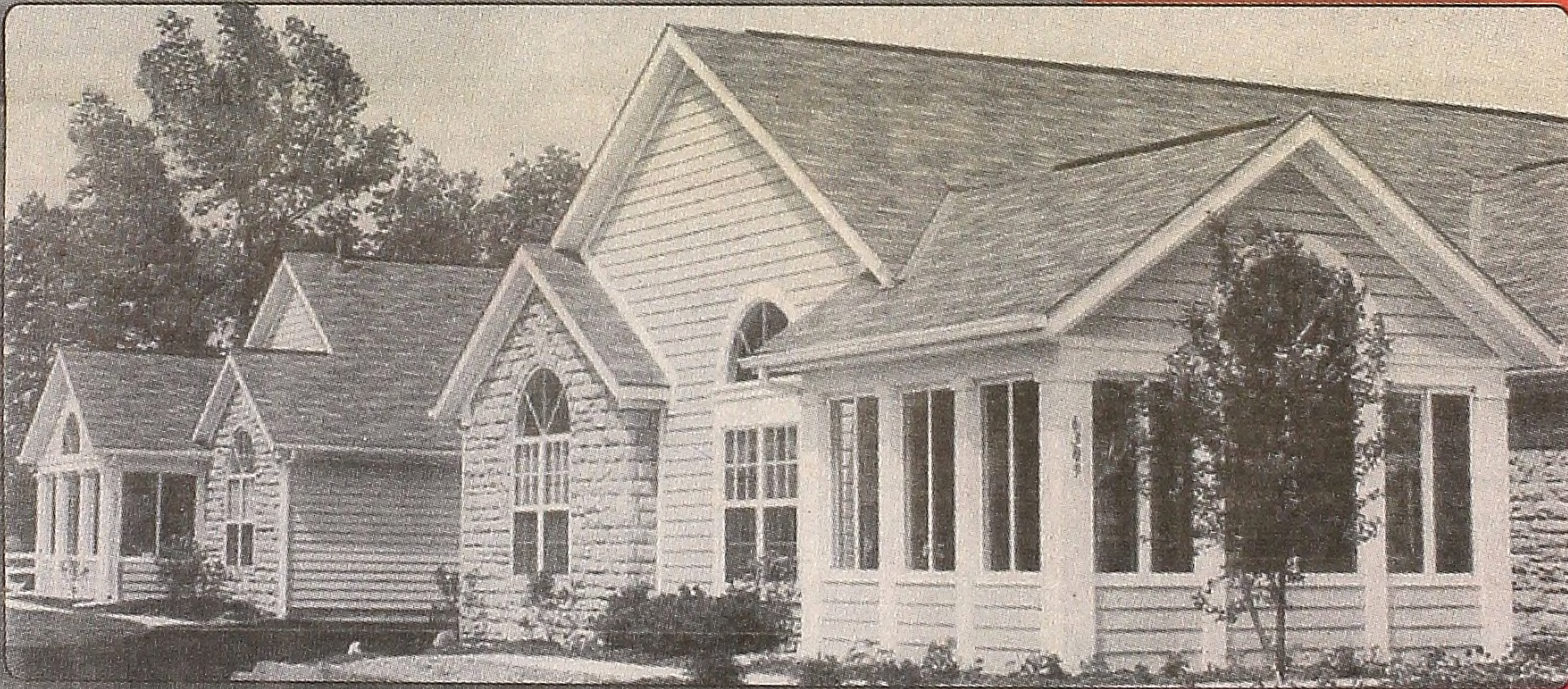
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